

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

RECOGNIZING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This Resource Toolkit is designed for programming at American Spaces to create a greater awareness of the importance of women's rights globally and the struggle of American women to achieve greater equality.



RESOURCE TOOLKIT

This toolkit contains many resources for a range of audiences.

- **Discussion Guides** provide American Spaces audiences with video/audio content (YouTube, Vimeo, full-length film, podcast, etc.), contextual information, critical thinking questions, and guidance for instruction.
- **Full-length** films must be procured by American Spaces. The Office of American Spaces is not endorsing these movies as they may not be appropriate for all audiences. Coordinators should screen the films ahead of showing them.
- **Kanopy Documentaries** are free through [e-Library USA](https://www.kanopy.com/).

U.S. WOMEN ENTERING THE WORKFORCE DURING WWII

During World War II, 1940 to 1945, men had to leave to serve in the military. This necessitated that millions of women were needed to work in the defense industry and other jobs held by men. In the photo above we see the Round House Wipers, a group of women working for the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad. These women's jobs were servicing locomotives to keep the trains running in wartime.

While the war created previously unavailable opportunities for women, after the war, many women were sent home so men could have their jobs back. Within a few years though, the growing post-war U.S. economy saw women re-entering the workforce. By 1965 more than fifty percent of the nation's women 15 years old and up were employed outside the home. This led to societal change in America, and women's empowerment in the economy had begun.

Are women well represented in your country's workforce? Are there any jobs still closed to women?



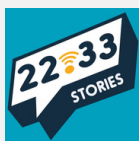
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

FULL DISCUSSION GUIDES

NOTE-WORTHY PODCAST EPISODES



[Paying it Forward \(with Aleksandra Gren\)](#)

KANOPY DOCUMENTARIES

[Big Dream - Young Women Entering STEM Fields](#)

[Women in Space](#)



HIDDEN FIGURES



Hidden Figures (1hr 29min) tells the inspirational story of three African-American female mathematicians who were able to overcome adversity and play a critical role for their country with their contributions to the American space flight program.

Spaceship Earth (42:43 min podcast) A veteran of three space missions, including a six-month stay on the International Space Station, astronaut Cady Coleman talks about life in space, living in close quarters with people from different countries, and the importance of share her story around the world.

SPACESHIP EARTH

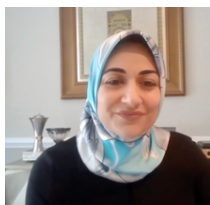


BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

FULL DISCUSSION GUIDES

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Zeena Altalib moved to the United States from her native Iraq when she was a teenager and settled in the Washington, DC area. Zeena realized as an adolescent that her two main challenges to be successful in America were to learn English and to be educated. A naturally creative person, Zeena saw what she calls a "niche opportunity" enabling her to launch her own business in America - the creation of a clothing company she named Primo Moda.



JOY

Set in a working-class suburb of New York in the 1990s, Joy is the story of a mother who invents a self-wringing mop (the first of its kind). The movie follows the financial difficulties and challenges that Joy faces while starting her business, including trouble with patents and declaring bankruptcy. Through the help of her family and friends, Joy becomes a successful businesswoman. This movie highlights the important themes of women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.



KANOPY DOCUMENTARIES

[Women in Business](#)





RIGHTS TO HEALTH & SAFETY

FULL DISCUSSION GUIDES

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TOOLKIT

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Is an international campaign that seeks to link women's rights with human rights. Each year it starts on November 25, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and concludes on International Human Rights Day on December 10. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about GBV and strengthen local work around gender-based violence against women.



WHY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS DON'T LEAVE

Steiner tells the story of her relationship with a man who routinely abused her and threatened her life, correcting misconceptions many people hold about victims of domestic violence, and explaining how we can all help break the silence.

Format: Ted Talk
Speaker: Leslie Morgan Steiner
Year: 2012
Length: 16 min



SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK

When Gretchen Carlson spoke out about her experience of workplace sexual harassment, it inspired women everywhere to tell the world what happened to them. In a remarkable and fierce talk, she tells her story - and identifies three specific things we can all do to create safer places to work.

Format: Ted Talk
Speaker: Gretchen Carlson
Year: 2017
Length: 15 min



A TABOO-FREE WAY TO TALK ABOUT PERIODS

It's true: talking about menstruation makes many people uncomfortable. And that taboo has consequences: in India, three out of every 10 girls don't even know what menstruation is at the time of their first period, and restrictive customs related to periods inflict psychological damage on young girls.

Format: Ted Talk
Speaker: Aditi Gupta
Year: 2015
Length: 11 min



I AM A GIRL

I am a Girl is an inspirational documentary that paints a clear picture of what it means to be a girl in today's complex world. Although girls make up one quarter of the world's population, they still face significant discrimination in comparison to other groups.

Format: Film
Director: Rebecca Barry
Year: 2013
Length: 88 min

TO EDUCATE A GIRL

In 2000, 110 million children in the world were not in school - two thirds of them were girls. In 2010, filmmakers Frederick Rendina and Oren Rudavsky traveled to Nepal and Uganda, two countries emerging from conflict and struggling with poverty, to find the answer to one question: What does it take to educate a girl?

Format: Film
Directors: Frederick Rendina, Oren Rudavsky
Year: 2011
Length: 76 min

K12 RESOURCES

- This [teacher guide](#) developed by the Smithsonian has lesson plans with activities around three videos on how American women got the right to vote.
- Smithsonian developed a [Women's History Month toolkit](#) with lesson plans and online resources for the American Spaces with a focus on U.S. history.
- [Women's Suffrage Posters & Displays](#)
- [Women in STEM Posters](#)

VIRTUAL EXHIBITS

- [National Women's History Museum Exhibit](#)
- [Library of Congress Exhibit on Women's Right to Vote](#)

ONLINE CONTENT & EVENTS

- [Her Story](#) from the Smithsonian has virtual events and shareable content
- [NPR: Women's Soccer Team Wins Equal Pay](#)

PHOTO ARCHIVES

- [State Department Women's History Month Flickr](#)
- [State Department Extraordinary Women Flickr](#)

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- [The Most Perfect Album: Episode 4](#)
- [Dolly Parton's 19th Amendment song](#)
- [Perfect 36: When Women Won the Vote](#)



TOOLKIT ARTWORK

If you enjoyed the artwork on this toolkit, please check out the [Department of Energy's Women in STEM Series](#).

SPORTS

FULL DISCUSSION GUIDES

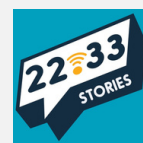
LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



A League of Their Own (2hr 8min) is a comedy-drama set in 1943 that gives a fictionalized account of the real-life All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. During World War II, millions of men from the United States were called into military service. At home, women were needed to fill jobs that had previously been done by men. Baseball players were also called into service. Seeking to fill this void, a chewing gum tycoon from Chicago created a female baseball league.

NOTE-WORTHY PODCAST

[Seeing It, Striving to Be It](#)



WOMEN STEPPING UP TO LEAD OTHERS FILM DISCUSSION GUIDES

NORMA RAE - WORKERS' RIGHTS

Norma Rae (1hr 54min) Based on a true story, Norma Rae works long hard hours in a cotton mill and can't afford to quit. She embarks on a difficult journey to fight for better working conditions.



ERIN BROCKOVICH - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Erin Brockovich



Erin Brockovich (2hr 11min) portrays the true biographical story of Erin Brockovich, a woman who fought against a large energy corporation for polluting the town's water supply.

KANOPY DOCUMENTARIES

[Alice's Ordinary People](#)

